

Attorney's Docket No.: 10559-887001/P17697
Intel Corporation

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

mechanically clamping a pellicle within an outer pellicle frame and an inner pellicle frame;
placing a polymer layer between a reticle and a selected one of the outer pellicle frame and the inner pellicle frame;
and

heating the polymer layer to a pre-determined temperature to attach the reticle to the selected pellicle frame.

2. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the polymer layer has a melting point between about 60 to 150 degrees Celsius.

3. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said heating heats the polymer layer between about 45 to 150 degrees Celsius.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, further comprising applying pressure to the reticle and the selected pellicle frame during said heating.

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5. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the polymer layer comprises a thermoplastic.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising forming a hermetic seal between the reticle and the pellicle frame.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, further comprising cutting the polymer layer to match a bottom surface area of the selected pellicle frame.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein said heating is local to the polymer layer bonding the selected pellicle frame to the reticle.

9. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:
a polymer layer shaped to match a bottom surface area of a pellicle frame, the polymer layer being adapted to attach a selected one of an outer pellicle frame and an inner pellicle frame to a reticle with heat applied proximate to the polymer layer.

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wherein the outer pellicle frame and the inner pellicle frame are mechanically clamped together.

10. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 9, wherein the polymer layer has a melting point between about 60 to 150 degrees Celsius.

11. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 9, wherein the polymer layer is bonded to the selected pellicle frame and the reticle with heat between about 45 to 150 degrees Celsius.

12. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 9, wherein the polymer layer is bonded to the selected pellicle frame and the reticle with heat localized proximate to the polymer layer.

13. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 9, wherein the polymer layer is adapted to attach the selected a pellicle frame to a reticle when pressure is applied to at least one of the selected pellicle frame and the reticle.

14. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 9, wherein the polymer layer comprises a thermoplastic.

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15. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 9, wherein the polymer layer is adapted to form a hermetic seal between the reticle and the selected pellicle frame.

16. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:
an outer frame;
an inner frame mechanically clamped to the outer frame;
a reticle; and
a polymer layer shaped to match a bottom surface area of a selected one of the outer frame and the inner frame, the polymer layer being adapted to attach the selected frame to the reticle with heat applied proximate to the polymer layer.

17. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 16, wherein the polymer layer comprises a polyester thermoplastic.